

Testimony to the Public Safety Committee, March 3, 2016

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Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3600
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, Members of the Committee;

I wish to voice my opposition of:

Raised Bill 5408 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT'

I oppose mandating permit holders to present their permit upon request without a reasonable articulated suspicion of a crime.

This bill is simply a bill to harass valid permit holders while lawfully carrying a sidearm. Currently in Connecticut, a person needs to pass five (5) background checks to purchase their first handgun. **This proposed legislation is authorizing police to stop and detain those very same permit holders that have already been vetted and found to be suitable.**

Just because someone is armed doesn't automatically make them dangerous.

Not every armed person is automatically a risk or a criminal. Furthermore, many citizens are often armed with pocketknives, flashlights, Leathermans, pens, etc. Police don't stop and detain those citizens just because they have a pen in their pocket or a folding knife on their waist. While this interaction might be brief, any reasonable person would not feel that they are free to leave, once they presented their permit to the officer and the officer took that permit in hand. therefore, that person would is being detained.

Before a law enforcement officer conducts a temporary investigatory stop, they must have a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. **The mere presence of a firearm for lawful purposes does not constitute and fails to give rise to reasonable suspicion.**¹ Whereas, both federal and state law already ban convicted felons and other criminals from possessing and purchasing firearms. Therefore, the default standard should not be, to stop lawful citizens to confirm they are not a felon.

I truly thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony and for your time.

Sincerely,
Ray Bevis

¹ <http://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/opinions/Published/115084.p.pdf>

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